United Nations A/65/PV.35

General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

35th plenary meeting
Monday, 25 October 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 111 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 30 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/65/526)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will first proceed to a by-election to elect members of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with rule 140 of the rules of procedure.

In that connection, I would first like to draw the attention of members to document A/65/526, which contains a letter dated 30 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations. In his letter, the Permanent Representative announces, in his capacity as the Chair of the Group of Western European and other States, that Turkey will relinquish its seat on the Economic and Social Council at the end of 2010 for the remainder of its term in favour of Spain, and that Liechtenstein will relinquish its seat on the Council at the end of 2010 for the remainder of its term in favour of Switzerland. As a result, two vacancies will occur and new members must therefore be elected to fill the unexpired terms of office of Liechtenstein and Turkey, commencing on 1 January 2011 and expiring on 31 December 2011.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI), of 20 December 1971, and taking into account that the vacancies will occur from among the Group of Western European and other States, the new members should therefore be elected from that region.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the candidates that receive the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of the votes by members present and voting will be declared elected. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations. We shall now proceed accordingly.

I should like to inform members that, as of 1 January 2011, the following States from the Group of Western European and other States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Malta and the United States of America. The names of those seven States should therefore not appear on the ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Allow me to remind members that they are now voting in the by-election for two seats for the Group of Western European and other States. The election of eighteen members of the Council will take place immediately following this by-election.

Ballot papers will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed and to write on them the name of the two States for which they wish to vote. A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains the names of more than two Member States from the relevant region for the two vacant seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if the name of a Member State on that ballot does not belong to the relevant region.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Francisco (Angola), Mr. Babić (Croatia), Ms. Maskay (France), Ms. Del Águila-Castillo (Guatemala), Mr. Visonnavong (Lao People's Democratic Republic) and Mr. Dosseh (Togo) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.25 a.m. and resumed at 10.50 a.m.

The President (*spoke in French*): The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Western European and other States (2 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	186
Number of invalid ballots:	4
Number of valid ballots:	182
Abstentions:	5
Number of members voting:	177
Required two-thirds majority:	118
Number of votes obtained:	
Spain	162
Switzerland	160
United Kingdom	7
Finland	7
Australia	5
Norway	4
Turkey	2
Austria	1
Liechtenstein	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Spain and Switzerland were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2011 and ending on 31 December 2011.

The President (*spoke in French*): I congratulate Spain and Switzerland on having been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

The General Assembly will next turn to the election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2010.

I give the floor to the representative of Nepal.

Mr. Rai (Nepal): I have the honour to inform this body that the Government of Nepal has decided to withdraw its candidacy for membership in the Economic and Social Council for the period 2011 to 2013, for which the election is now being held.

Allow me also to report that my Government has decided to present its candidacy for membership in the Economic and Social Council for the period 2013 to 2015. My Government would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Governments that have already expressed their support for our candidacy.

The President (*spoke in French*): The eighteen outgoing members are: Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Congo, Finland, Malaysia, Mozambique, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Pursuant to rule 146 of the rules of procedure, those countries are eligible for immediate re-election.

Members will recall that Liechtenstein and Turkey relinquished their seats on the Council, effective 1 January 2011, and that Spain and Switzerland have just been elected to fill those vacancies.

Consequently, as of 1 January 2011, the following States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Argentina, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Malta, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, the

United States of America, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zambia. The names of those 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI), of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States that will remain members of the Council after 1 January 2011, the 18 members should be elected as follows: four from African States, four from Asian States, three from Eastern European States, three from Latin American and Caribbean States and four from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

I should like to inform the General Assembly that those candidates — their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled — that receive a two-thirds majority and the greatest number of votes by members present and voting, will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

With regard to candidatures of the respective regional Groups, the Secretariat has been informed of the following. For the four vacant seats from among the African States, the Group has endorsed four candidates: Cameroon, Gabon, Malawi and Senegal. For the four vacant seats from among the Asian States, there are five candidates: Bahrain, China, Pakistan, Qatar and the Republic of Korea. For the three vacant seats from among the Eastern European States, the Group has endorsed Hungary, Latvia and the Russian Federation. For the three vacant seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group has endorsed three candidates: Ecuador, Mexico and Nicaragua. For the four vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, the Group has endorsed four candidates: Australia, Finland, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked A, B, C, D and E will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains more names of Member States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if none of the names of the Member States on that ballot belongs to the relevant region. If a ballot paper of a region contains the names of one or more Member States that do not belong to that region, the ballot remains valid, but only the names of the Member States that belong to the relevant region will be counted. The names of Member States that do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Francisco (Angola), Mr. Babić (Croatia), Ms. Maskay (France), Ms. Del Águila-Castillo (Guatemala), Mr. Visonnavong (Lao People's Democratic Republic) and Mr. Dosseh (Togo) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. and resumed at 12.10 p.m., with Mr. Tanin (Afghanistan), Vice President, in the Chair.

The Acting President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African States (4 seats)	
Number of ballot papers:	190
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	189
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	189
Required two-thirds majority:	126
Number of votes obtained:	
Senegal	187
Gabon	185

Malawi	184
Cameroon	183

Group B — Asian States (4 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	190
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	190
Required two-thirds majority:	127
Number of votes obtained:	
China	150
Republic of Korea	150
Pakistan	149
Qatar	145
Bahrain	137
Nepal	1

Group C — Eastern European States (3 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	190
Number of invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	187
Required two-thirds majority:	125
Number of votes obtained:	
Russian Federation	182
Hungary	175
Latvia	155
Lithuania	17
Bulgaria	13
Poland	1
Republic of Moldova	1

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States (3 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	190
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	190
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	189
Required two-thirds majority:	126
Number of votes obtained:	
Mexico	184
Ecuador	182
Nicaragua	180

Group E — Western European and other States (4 seats)

Number of ballot papers:	190
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	189
Abstentions:	8
Number of members voting:	181
Required two-thirds majority:	121
Number of votes obtained:	
Finland	177
Norway	177
Australia	171
United Kingdom	170
Austria	2

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority of members present and voting, the following 18 States were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2011: Australia, Cameroon, China, Ecuador, Finland, Gabon, Hungary, Latvia, Malawi, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Senegal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Acting President: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

This concludes our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 111.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.